

CITY OF ROY

ROY ROUND-UP

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Happy New Year!



My name is Rachel Chavez. I was voted into the 1st council position. I have lived in Roy for a year and a half, almost two years with my amazing hard-working boyfriend who has the kindest most loving heart and my silly compassionate 7-year old daughter, I love both dearly. As a child I grew up on 5 acres of woods climbing trees and staying outside until there was nothing but the stars and moon to light our yard. Before moving to Roy, I was in the middle of downtown Lacey in a small 1-bedroom apartment, never feeling any sense of safety and feeling miles out of my comfort zone with barely any trees. Here in Roy, I am much further from my childhood home but I feel so much closer to it. There is a sense of peace here that I have longed for. I have chose to raise my daughter here. I am the proud daughter of a hard-working father that for years worked at a door company and a mother that worked at the very elementary school I went to. I was raised to work hard and to put my all into everything I tackle. My father taught me many life lessons like you help people just to be kind not to expect things in return.

My mom thought me the lessons about real strength and you give yourself to your children and family without question. I try to live my life this way every day.

When I was a young child other kids were dreaming of being princesses and race car drivers but it was my dream to be a mom. I try my hardest to make her proud, show her that if you put your mind to something, you can achieve anything. I love how I can walk down the streets of our city and see beautiful tall trees. I would love to get to know all the citizens of Roy and be able to help our community grow closer and also help this city to flourish. Even though I was not born and raised in Roy, I proudly call Roy my forever home. I hope to continue to make this city proud just as I do for my daughter every day.

HISTORY

The Prairie Line through Roy lost its through passenger service on August 8, 1943 when the GN moved the Seattle-Portland pool passenger train over to the double track Point Defiance line. After 1943 only local periodic train traffic to serve industries came through Roy and the line was used as an occasional alternative route for large loads.

Despite train schedules, the community of Roy had its share of trials and tribulations. The town had been dealt with devastating fires ever since its establishment in 1884. Due to the town's lack of a working water system, there was no fire department to serve the community. Each time a portion of the downtown commercial district caught fire the Tacoma Fire Department was summoned to fight the blaze. It was a 20 mile race to Roy from Tacoma. By the time the firefighters arrived, a good portion of town would have already burned to the ground. Roy endured fourteen notable fires from 1889 to 1936. The fact that portions of the business district sporadically burned down contributed to the eventual downturn of Roy's economy.

Another factor in Roy's economic bust was the U.S. Army's 1917 acquisition of large portions of land north and west of the town. This cut Roy off from existing and potentially new commerce with the surrounding communities.

In 1970, both the Northern Pacific and the Great Northern lost their individual identities when they merged with the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy and the Seattle, Portland & Spokane to make one large company: the Burlington Northern (BN) railroad. In 1973 the restricted clearances of the Point Defiance line was suddenly improved and as a result, the need for the Prairie Line as an alternate route was eliminated.

Excerpt from the Washington Heritage Register

EVENTS THIS MONTH

- Council Meeting Monday Jan. 8th and 22nd at 7:30 PM at City Hall ALL are welcome to attend.
- Planning Commission Meeting Jan. 16th, tentative.
- Nourish Food Bank-Calvary Baptist Church 9010 320th St S. Wednesdays 1-3 pm.
- Roy Lions Club meetings are every 3rd Tuesday 7:00 PM at the Roy Grange.
- If you would like to submit photos, events or suggestions please email royadmin@cityofroywa.us

CITY UPDATES:

City Hall will be CLOSED Monday January 15th in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.
Parking enforcement at the BNSF property has begun.
The Police dept. will give warnings and then issue citations if not in compliance.
Dog licenses/renewals are due by January 31st.
FREE water saving shower heads are available at City Hall Monday thru Thursday 7:30AM to 5:00 PM

Quote of the Month

"The priceless lesson in the New Year is that endings birth beginnings and beginnings birth endings." Author Unknown